



To: Facilities Serviced by HHL and HHL Employees
From: Heartland Health Laboratories, Inc.
Date: March 24, 2020
RE: COVID19 Recommendations and Available Testing *UPDATE*

Heartland Health Laboratories, Inc. is committed to continuing to provide excellent laboratory services during the novel Coronavirus-19 pandemic (COVID19). This is a fluid situation, changes in procedures and processes are happening frequently. Please be patient with our laboratory staff during these challenging times.

Each facility should explicitly follow their protocols and Standard Operating Procedures regarding COVID19. The CDC Person Under Investigation (PUI) form requests the results from the following tests. Due to the limited number of tests available, patients must meet the following criteria.

(As of 3/24/20 these testing algorithms are current)



Heartland Health Laboratories, Inc. will offer testing for influenza/RSV and COVID19.

COVID19 Testing Protocol :

1. **Notify HHL staff when testing is being ordered on a PUI**
***Important* If your patient is under investigation all specimen(s) and samples should be collected by your dedicated facility staff caring for the patient**
2. Patients must meet the CDC requirements for COVID19 testing listed above
 - a. **The dedicated facility staff caring for the patient will collect and label the specimen**
 - b. HHL phlebotomists will **NOT** be collecting specimens for COVID19 testing (see 2.a)
 - c. This is an effort to minimize the exposure of HHL staff, other residents, and reduce the amount of PPE used
3. Turnaround times
 - a. HHL will make every attempt to pick up COVID19 samples same day
 - b. COVID19 testing is NOT available STAT
 - c. COVID19 testing has a 5-7 day turnaround
4. A negative Influenza/RSV will **NOT** reflex to COVID19 testing
 - a. CoVid-19 test CAN be added to an Influenza/RSV specimen within 72 hours, otherwise the specimen will need to be recollected
 - b. Call Heartland Health Laboratories, Inc. for add on testing of COVID19 testing
 - c. Provide a signed doctors order for COVID19 testing

Some helpful links are listed below.

CMS Guidance for Infection Control and Prevention of Coronavirus Disease 2019

<https://www.cms.gov/medicareprovider-enrollment-and-certificationsurvey/certificationengeninfopolicy-and/qso-20-14-nh.pdf>

Evaluating and Testing Persons for Coronavirus Disease (2019) COVID19

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>